

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/822,232

Examiner

Tran A. Quoc

Applicant(s)

TREIBACH-HECK ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendments/Remarks filed 04/12/2007 and Telephone interview 09/10/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-10, 12-7, and 20 (renumbering as 1-16 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

/Doug Hutton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jeffrey Pearce, Attorney for Applicant(s) on 09/12/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A system, including one or more processors and memories, for processing a form completed by a user, comprising:

- an originating system associated with an originator;
- a client system;
- a center system;
- ~~a user;~~
- ~~an identifier-generating software module;~~
- a form-handling software module resident in the client system and comprising computer-executable code for sensing-sending a request from the user to the originating system for a requestor-specific form, which is embodied in a first, electronic has a first transmission format, mode, by the originator the originating system thereupon transmitting to the center system, for entering corresponding, first automatically extractable data, along with a command to produce onto an instance of the requestor-specific form including the automatically extractable data, and for generating a command to produce the requestor-specific form for the originator;

Art Unit: 2176

~~an intercepting software module comprising computer-executable code for sensing the command to produce, in a submittable transmission mode, which is a transformation from the first transmission mode, the requestor-specific form,~~

~~the~~ an identifier-generating software module resident in the center system comprising computer-executable code for thereupon not only creating the instance of the requestor-specific form but also generating a request-specific, unique identifier uniquely identifying the specific produced instance of the requestor-specific form and for augmenting the instance of the requestor-specific form with the unique, request-specific identifier, said center system thereupon returning to the originating system for onward transmission to the user the request-specific form including not only the automatically extractable data but also the request-specific, unique identifier;

a form-processing software module resident within in the center system and comprising computer-executable code for storing an association of the unique, request-specific identifier with the specific instance of the requestor-specific form, for receiving, via a publicly accessible transmission channel, the augmented- specific instance of the requestor-specific form in the submittable transmission mode after handling by the user in a second transmission format, which is different from the first transmission format and allows for off-line handling, for comparing the unique, request-specific identifier of the received requestor-specific form against the association, and for automatically routing an image of the received requestor-specific form to a destination indicated in a corresponding entry in a configuration file.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A system as in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, in which the ~~command to produce request from the user to the originating system for the requestor-specific form~~ is includes a command to a standard printer driver within the client system.

Art Unit: 2176

4. (currently amended) A system as in claim [[2]] 1, in which the ~~command to produce request from the user to the originating system for the~~ requestor-specific form ~~is~~ includes a command to download the form to the originating system over a network.

5. (previously presented) A system as in claim 1, further comprising a coordinating system connected by network to both the client system and the center system for transmitting information identifying the instance of the requestor-specific form to the center system from the client system.

6. (original) A system as in claim 5, in which the coordinating system is a web service.

7. (previously presented) A system as in claim 1, in which the requestor-specific form includes at least one handwritten comment field, the computer system further including computer-executable code for associating the handwritten comment field with a corresponding report item.

8. (previously presented) A system as in claim 7, in which the computer-executable code is further provided for automatically extracting the handwritten comment field as a sub-image and then converting the sub-image into a displayable format.

9. (currently amended) A system as in claim 1, in which the form processing software module is further provided for automatically extracting data from the received requestor-specific form.

10. (currently amended) A system as in claim 9, in which the form processing software module includes a format conversion module comprising

Art Unit: 2176

computer-executable code for automatically converting the extracted data into any of a plurality of predetermined formats for transmission of the extracted data to a recipient in the format that is associated with that recipient.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A system, including one or more processors and memories, for processing a form completed by a user, comprising:

a client system associated with a user;

a center system that is separate from the client system;

a form-handling software module resident in the client system and comprising computer-executable code for sensing-sending a request for a requestor-specific form to the center system over a publicly accessible transmission channel; ~~which has a first transmission mode, for entering first automatically extractable data onto an instance of the requestor-specific form, and for generating a command to produce the requestor-specific form for a requestor;~~

a form-processing software module resident within the center system and ~~an intercepting software module in the client system comprising computer-executable code~~ for sensing the command-request to produce, ~~in a submittable transmission mode, which is a transformation from the first transmission mode,~~ the requestor-specific form, and thereupon

for including automatically extractable, requestor-specific data in a specific instance of the requestor-specific form and

for automatically generating and augmenting the requestor-specific form with a request-specific identifier uniquely identifying the specific instance of the requestor-specific form before manual completion of at least one data-entry field of the form and submission of the form for subsequent processing, and augmenting the instance of the requestor-specific form with the request-specific identifier;

Art Unit: 2176

~~a form processing software module within the center system and comprising computer-executable code for~~
for storing an association of a the request-specific form-identifier with the specific instance of the requestor-specific form,
for transmitting the specific instance of ~~for receiving the augmented instance of~~ the requestor-specific form back to the client system in a first, electronic in the submittable transmission format mode,
after requestor handling of the specific instance of the request-specific form in a second format that is different form the first format and allows for off-line handling, for receiving the request-specific form back from the client system,
for comparing the request-specific identifier of the received request-specific form against the association, and
for automatically routing an image of the received requestor-specific form to a destination indicated by rules that trigger actions based on predefined request-specific conditions.

13. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, in which the automatic routing of an image of the received form to a destination is indicated by rules that trigger actions based on defined conditions.

14. (previously presented) A system as in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 12, in which the form-processing module is further provided with computer-executable code for issuing a message to at least one recipient as part of the automatic routing.

15. (currently amended) A system as in claim 12, in which the conditions are also a function of at least one item of the automatically extractable ~~extracted~~ data.

Art Unit: 2176

16. (previously presented) A system as in claim 12, in which the conditions include pre-determined conditions.

17. (previously presented) A system as in claim 16, in which the pre-determined conditions are selected from a group consisting of form transmission errors, form reception errors, form completion errors and conditions associated with predetermined routing categories.

18. (cancelled)

19. (canceled)

20. (new) A system, including one or more processors and memories, for processing a form completed by a user, comprising:

- an originating system;

- a center system;

- a form-handling software module resident in the originating system and comprising computer-executable code for sending a request for a user-specific form to the center system;

- a form-processing software module resident within the center system and comprising computer-executable code

- for sensing the request to produce the user-specific form, and thereupon

- for including automatically extractable, user-specific data in a specific instance of the user-specific form and

- for automatically generating and augmenting the user-specific form with a request-specific identifier uniquely identifying the specific instance of the user-specific form

- for storing an association of the request-specific identifier with the specific instance of the user-specific form,

for transmitting the specific instance of the user-specific form back to the originating system in a first, electronic transmission format ,

for receiving back the specific instance of the request-specific form after handling by the user in a second transmission format that is different from the first transmission format and allows for off-line handling,

for comparing the unique request-specific identifier of the received user-specific, user-handled form against the association, and

for automatically routing an image of the received user-specific, user-handled form to a destination indicated by rules that trigger actions based on predefined request-specific conditions.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-17, and 20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's Amendment filed 04/12/2007, and telephone interview 09/12/2007. Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record over Light et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,192,380 (hereinafter, "Light"), in view of Maxwell et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,589,290 (hereinafter, "Maxwell"), further in view of Maxwell et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,589,290 (hereinafter, "Maxwell"), Tsuji et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016856A1 (hereinafter, "Tsuji"), which set forth in the previous rejection mailed on 04/30/2007.

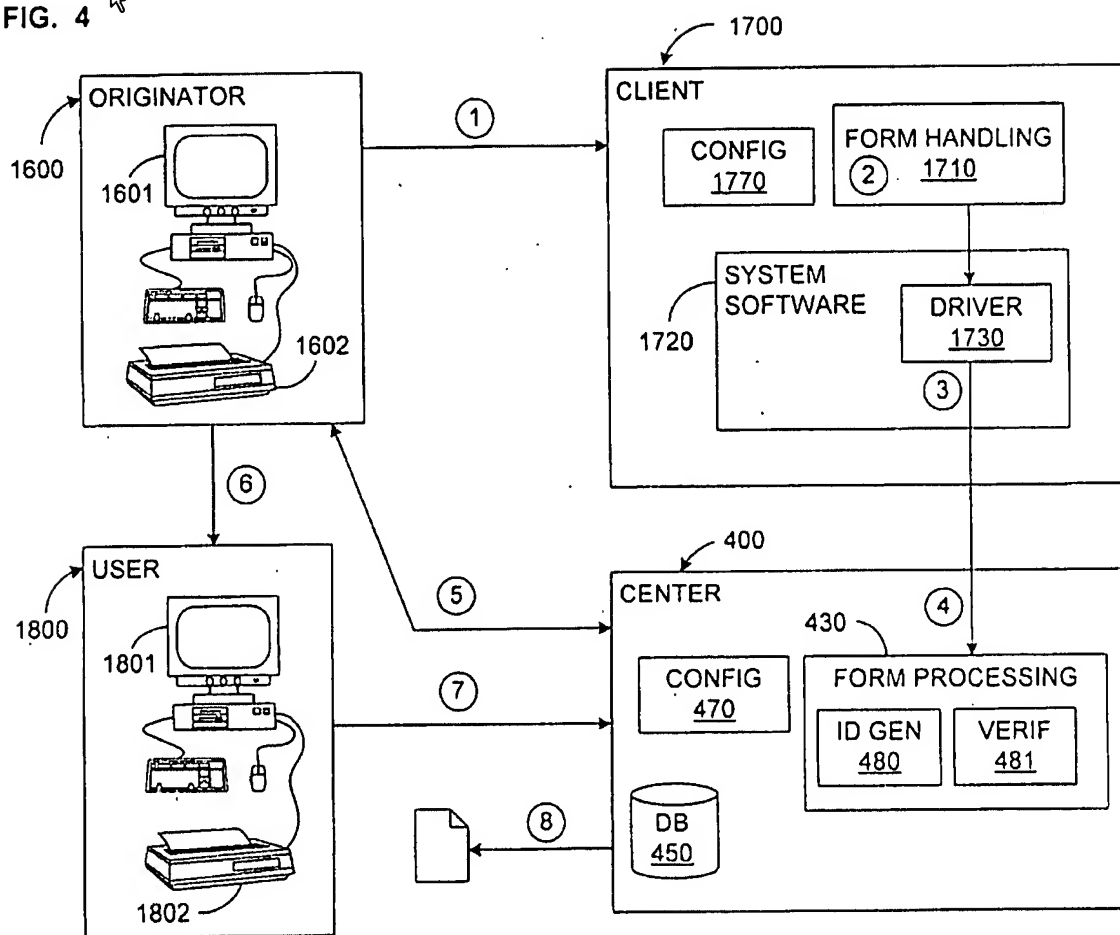
The prior art of record taught most of the Applicant's claimed limitation, but does not expressly teach automatically generating and augmenting the user-

Art Unit: 2176

specific form with a request-specific identifier uniquely identifying the specific instance of the user-specific form, wherein an identifier generating software module resident in the center system. In the present invention comprising computer-executable code for thereupon not only creating the instance of the requestor-specific form but also generating a request-specific, unique identifier uniquely identifying the specific produced instance of the requestor-specific form and for augmenting the instance of the requestor-specific form with the unique, request-specific identifier, said center system thereupon returning to the originating system for onward transmission to the user the request-specific form including not only the automatically extractable data but also the request-specific, unique identifier.

In addition, the Examiner equates the claimed as equivalent to an originating system (1600) associated with an originator, a client system (1700), a center system (400), a form-handling software module (1710) resident in the client system (1700), for sending a request from the user to the originating system for a requestor-specific form, where an identifier-generating software module (480) resident in the center system comprising computer-executable code for thereupon not only creating the instance of the requestor-specific form but also generating a request-specific, unique identifier uniquely identifying the specific produced instance of the requestor-specific form and for augmenting the instance of the requestor-specific form with the unique, request-specific identifier (See Applicant's disclosure Fig. 4 and also the Specifications Page 25 Para 92-93).

FIG. 4



The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Art Unit: 2176

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Quoc A. Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176

/Doug Hutton/
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100